

ACREAGE AND RATIO GUIDES USED IN ESTABLISHING SOIL-DEPLETING BASES
1937 Agricultural Conservation Program

State and County Code	Item (1)	Farm Land (2)	Crop Land (3)	Ratio (4)	Total Soil-Depleting Crops			Special Crop Acreages			General Base		
					Acreage (5)	Ratio (6)	State Stat. 1928-32 Ratio (7)	Cotton (8)	Tobacco (9)	Peanuts (10)	Total (11)	Acreage (13)	Ratio (14)
1.	1929 Census												
2.	1934 Census												
3.	1934 Census Adjusted												
ECR-6 DATA:													
4.	Farmland, Cropland and Harvestings	% Farm Land Covered											
5.	Preliminary Base												
6.	Recommended Base												
7.	Recommended Base Adjusted for Corn												
8.	Land Class. & Final Approved Base												
ECR-101 DATA:													
Preliminary For:													
9.	1936 Participants												
10.	1937 New Participants												
11.	All Participants												
12.	Recommended, All Participants												
13.	For 100% Participation												
Final For:													
14.	1936 Participants												
15.	1937 New Participants												
16.	All Participants												
17.													
18.													

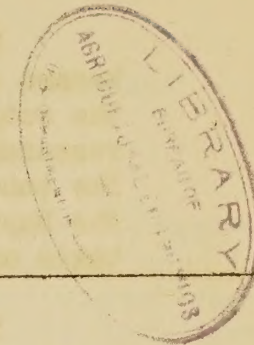
United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Adjustment Administration
EAST CENTRAL REGION

OCT 8 1936

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Questions for Discussion

1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM



Foreword

The present series of meetings for discussing problems and planning the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program marks the fourth consecutive year in which farmers have worked together in shaping programs for the improvement of their farms and the protection of their incomes. The use of this cooperative method for solving mutual problems represents, for agriculture, a long stride forward.

My special message to farmers and committeemen is that I hope they will keep their fundamental objectives always in mind; to check soil erosion, to improve soil fertility, to encourage better land use, and to maintain farm purchasing power.

Everyone knows that these are sound national objectives. In working toward these objectives it is necessary that the people of the East Central Region keep in mind the special problems which are peculiar to the Region.

A program devoted to such purposes will serve not only agricultural welfare, but national welfare. It will bring about a better balance in the production of food and feed. Farmers must attain these aims in order to provide greater abundance for the average American home. Their responsibility to the consumer is to supply ample supplies of food and fiber. In return they have a right to expect an income sufficient to maintain their farms and care for their families, with a standard of living which keeps pace with that of the nation as a whole.

If in their community meetings and later discussions, farmers keep striving for these main goals, I am confident the details will be worked out and that a sound and useful program for 1937 will be the result.

H. A. Wallace

H. A. Wallace,
Secretary of Agriculture .

Background

The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936 became a law on February 29, 1936. The passage of this Act was the outgrowth of a long period of farmers' efforts, education and research in dealing with the problems of American agriculture. The immediate passage of the Act was the result of a decision of the Supreme Court which on January 6, 1936 declared the processing taxes under the Agricultural Adjustment Act unconstitutional.

The Agricultural Conservation Program for 1936 was designed to increase the acreage in soil-conserving crops in the United States by approximately 30 million acres. This increase in soil-conserving acreage is necessary to the maintenance and improvement of farm land throughout the country. During the war millions of acres were brought under cultivation to supply increased world demands. Continued cultivation of this acreage in the face of a decline of export markets constituted wasteful use of the nation's resources. The efforts of individual farmers was not sufficient to make the necessary adjustments. The agricultural adjustment programs for the years 1933 to 1935 inclusive, were the first successful attempt to cope with the problem on a large scale.

The 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program was announced on March 21, 1936. A number of changes have been made in the program in an attempt to meet conditions which have arisen since the announcement of the program. A number of these changes were made because of the drought and all were issued in order to adapt the program to the needs of farmers generally, keeping in mind the objectives of the program.

The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act is a continuing Act under which a continuing annual appropriation is authorized. Farmers are now faced with the problem of determining what kind of a program will in 1937 best carry out the stated purposes of the Act. The amount of money which will be available for payments under the 1937 program will depend upon how much money is appropriated by Congress for that year's program.

Questions

The following questions have been prepared as a basis for discussion at meetings to consider the results of the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program and in the light of experience with the program to make recommendations for 1937 which will accomplish the objectives of the Act.

QUESTION NO. 1. WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED UNDER THE 1936 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM?
WHAT DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED?

The progress which has been made in 1936 in meeting the agricultural conservation problems in the county should be discussed. In this discussion the effect of the 1936 drought and other unusual conditions will need to be considered. Any difficulties which have been encountered in the 1936 program should be discussed as a basis for recommending adjustments which should be made for the 1937 program.

QUESTION NO. 2. TO WHAT EXTENT CAN BASES ESTABLISHED IN 1936 BE USED IN 1937?
WHAT MODIFICATIONS ARE NEEDED?

The cotton, tobacco, peanut and general soil-depleting bases established in 1936 were intended to represent normal acreage devoted to such crops on each farm. What modifications are needed for 1937 and what procedure should be followed in making them? Should any of these bases be dispensed with?

QUESTION NO. 3. WHAT CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE IN THE BASIS OF PAYMENT TO MEET 1937 CONDITIONS?

Under the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program payments were offered (a) for the diversion of land from soil-depleting bases to the production of soil-conserving crops and (b) for the carrying out of soil-building practices. Should the same types of payment be made in 1937 or should all payments be made for carrying out soil-building practices? If the same type of payments are to be made in 1937, should a smaller or larger proportion of the total payment be made for soil-building practices? If practices only are included, should the practices include the planting of soil-building crops in place of a specific depleting crop or group of crops? Is it practical to make payments at higher rates for carrying out practices which involve diversion from soil-depleting crops than the rates of payment for practices which do not involve diversion?

If payments are to be made for the diversion of soil-depleting crops in 1937, consideration should be given to the basis for diversion. The question should be considered as to whether deductions should be made for an increase in 1937 in soil-depleting crops over the bases, and as to whether deductions should be made for failure to have a specified minimum of soil-conserving crops in 1937.

What provisions with respect to payments should be included to encourage the adoption and maintenance of cropping systems most needed in the region?

QUESTION NO. 4. WHAT CHANGES IN CROP CLASSIFICATION SHOULD BE MADE FOR 1937?

When the 1936 Agricultural Conservation program was formulated, crops or uses of land were classified as soil-conserving, soil-depleting or neutral. This classification was based upon the effect of each crop or use on the soil under normal conditions. A number of changes in the original classification were made during the year and further changes may be advisable for 1937. Careful consideration should be given to the question as to whether there should be an additional classification with no payment offered for diversion to or from the crops in this classification.

QUESTION NO. 5. FOR WHAT SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES SHOULD PAYMENT BE MADE IN 1937?

In the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program soil-building payments were made for such practices as the seeding of legumes and grasses, the application of lime and superphosphate, the planting of forest trees, the plowing under of green manure crops and in some areas, for terracing.

It is desirable to provide a sufficient variety of soil-building practices to meet the needs of farmers in the different types of farming areas in the Region. At the same time, the number of practices should be held to a minimum in order to avoid complexity. Practices for which payment is made should be such that definite progress in soil building will result from carrying out of the practice. Should all practices be applicable for the entire Region or should separate practices be set up for each State?

Consideration should be given as to whether a payment should be made for carrying out a group of practices such as the seeding of alfalfa with the application of superphosphate and lime as a requirement in connection with the seeding or for carrying out the individual practices of seeding alfalfa, applying lime, applying superphosphate, etc.

QUESTION NO. 6. SHOULD A TOTAL ALLOWANCE BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE 1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM, WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF THE PAYMENTS THAT COULD BE EARNED FOR EACH FARM? IF SO, HOW SHOULD IT BE ESTABLISHED AND HOW SHOULD IT BE EARNED?

In 1936, a soil-building allowance was established for each farm and the payment for diversion could not be made on more than a fixed percentage of the base acreage. The same procedure might be followed in 1937 or a different procedure might be adopted by establishing one "soil-conservation" allowance fixing the maximum total payment for the farm. One way in which this allowance might be established would be to make allocations to states and counties in accordance with the formula set forth in the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, allowing for some variation according to participation, etc. The allowance for individual farms might be determined by making an allowance for each acre of specified crops and land uses on the farm, taking into account the productivity of the land and the value of production thereon. These crops and land uses might include cotton, tobacco, peanuts, other soil-depleting crops, orchards, conserving crops, pasture, and idle cropland. Under this plan most farmers would know early in the year the maximum total payment which they could earn on the land they will operate in 1937.

It could be provided that the allowance could be earned by the adoption of any specified practices, by diversion from soil-depleting bases, or by any combination of these methods. Certain limits could be established as to the portion of the total allowance which could be earned by any one method. The payment of the allowance or any part of it might be made, conditioned on performance in various ways, such as not expanding acreage of certain crops under specified conditions or on having specified acreages of designated crops.

QUESTION NO. 7. IS THERE NEED FOR BROADER CROP INSURANCE FEATURES THAN HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE IN PREVIOUS PROGRAMS?

The programs under the Agricultural Adjustment Act and under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act have provided a considerable degree of crop insurance to cooperating farmers. The development of a general crop insurance plan might be considered to provide a more extensive insurance program.

If a crop insurance plan were developed, premiums could be paid in cash, or they could be deducted from payments due farmers under the conservation program or they could be paid in kind. Crop insurance with payments in kind provide for farmers turning in a given portion of their crop in years of heavy production and receiving back a given supply in years of low production. Such an approach should tend to even out fluctuations in price since supplies would tend to be stabilized.

THE FIRST SECTION OF THE ACT RELATES TO THE
MANNER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES
AND TO THE MANNER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF
JURORS IN THE COURTS OF THE STATE.

IN THE FIRST SECTION OF THE ACT, IT IS PROVIDED
THAT THE JUDGES OF THE SEVERAL COURTS SHALL BE
APPOINTED BY THE SENATE, AND THAT THE SENATE
SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMOVE THEM. IN THE
SECOND SECTION, IT IS PROVIDED THAT THE
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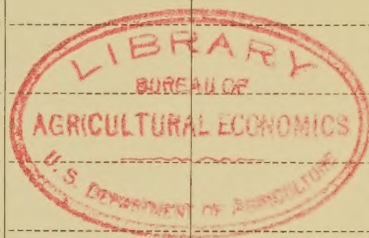
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COMMITTEEMAN INFORMATION CARD

Summary of Acreages and Bases

	1934	1935	1936	1937			
General.....	x x x x x	x x x x x					
Cotton.....							
Peanuts.....	x x x x x						
Tobacco.....							
Corn.....			x x x x x	x x x x x			
Wheat.....				x x x x x			
Cropland.....							
Farm land.....							
Acres owned.....							
Acres cash rented.....							
Acres share rented.....							



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☐ State, ☐ County, ☐ Community

(State)

(County)

(Community)

(Committeeman)

(Last name)

(First name)

(Middle name)

(Address)

(Age)

(Schooling)

(Years in present community)

Experience as committeeman

Membership in agricultural organizations

Membership in nonagricultural organizations

Major farm enterprises:

☐ General crops, ☐ Cotton, ☐ Tobacco, ☐ Peanuts, ☐ Orchards, ☐ Truck ☐ Dairying, ☐ Beef cattle, ☐ Sheep, ☐ Hogs, ☐ Poultry.

Sources of income other than farming

Experience other than farming

Remarks: